Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 26 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 27 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 25 Jan 2024 at 13:32

Confidence: High confidence until Sunday when confidence falls low due to uncertainties in frontal progression.

Headline for Friday 26 Jan 2024: Early rain clears east to leave a mostly dry and sunny day.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 26 Jan 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	20%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Forecast for Friday 26 Jan 2024

Weather: A band of heavy rain pushes east during the early hours with the chance of a few sleet or snow showers following behind. Cloud breaks up before dawn to allow some prolonged clear spells. Sunny spells throughout the day. Clouding over later in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, soon improving to 90%

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud base 500-700m during the early hours, soon clearing. Visibility moderate in early rain, poor in any sleet or snow, otherwise good.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 26 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	48/62 SW	44/58 W	42/55 W	33/44 W	32/43 W	34/45 SW	33/44 SW	33/44 SW	32/44 SW
600	38/53 SW	36/51 W	33/48 W	27/39 W	27/39 W	28/40 SW	26/38 SW	26/39 SW	26/40 SW
300	15/41 SW	16/42 W	16/41 W	13/32 W	14/34 W	14/34 SW	13/32 SW	14/33 SW	14/34 SW
Valley	18/42 SW	18/40 W	16/36 W	14/31 W	16/32 W	16/33 SW	15/31 SW	16/32 SW	16/32 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-4	-1/-10	-3/-13	-3/-12	-2/-10	-1/-10	-1/-9	0/-8	0/-7
600	6/-1	2/-6	-0/-9	-0/-8	1/-7	1/-6	2/-5	2/-4	3/-4
300	8/4	4/-1	2/-3	2/-3	4/-1	4/-0	4/-0	5/0	5/1
Valley	9/6	6/2	5/1	5/1	6/2	7/3	7/3	7/4	8/4
Freezing Level*	1700m	800m	500m	500m	600m	700m	800m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling very cold, particularly at height, be prepared with appropriate layers.

Forecast for Saturday 27 Jan 2024

Weather: Rather cloudy with limited sunny spells through the day. Chance of a little patchy light rain later in the evening.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 15-20 mph gusting 30-35 mph, turning southerly later

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70-80%

Low cloud and visibility: Few or scattered 600-800m. Good visibility.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7 to 9 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 to 2 Celsius
Freezing level: 1000-1200m, rising during the evening

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 25 January: Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:30 Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, the precipitation falling in the early hours of Friday is forecast to fall as snow above 600m, so walkers out on Friday on the high fells could find different conditions to those experienced and described today. The thaw continues – it was plus 4 degrees and raining on the summit around midday. The snow that remains can be found as low as 650m in isolated sheltered spots and hollows; however the vast majority now lies above 850m and particularly above 900m on steep north and especially east facing slopes. Where undisturbed, such snow patches were soft, wet and thawing. Where compacted, however, they were often hard and icy and will, therefore, take longer to thaw. However, owing to their locations most of the remaining snow is easily avoided and presents no difficulty to walkers. Indeed, the vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths up to, and including, summit level are free from snow and ice. A notable exception to this is Swirral Edge's exit which is guarded by a bank of deep, steep, unavoidable snow located where a slip not quickly arrested could have serious consequences. Although this snow was soft today an ice axe was definitely required to traverse it safely and crampons should be carried in case the temperature drops and the snow hardens. Conversely, by exiting Striding edge slightly to the south of the normal route, Striding Edge's exit's snow bank can now be avoided. There were isolated patches of ice on paths above 700m where the snow had been compacted which were proving resistant to the thaw although most were easily avoided. Exceptions were on Helvellyn's edges. Swirral Edge's crest was mostly wet rock; however there were annoying/treacherous isolated patches of ice also present. Striding Edge's crest was also mostly wet rock; however the "easier" path on the north side that avoids the crest had patches of snow and ice covering it. Caution is therefore required along such routes. Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was a chilly minus 4 degrees C. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Owing to the possibility of encountering more ice and snow, walkers out on the high fells on Friday and attempting exposed routes are recommended to also carry an ice axe and crampons. As previously stated, this is essential for those tackling Swirral Edge in the current conditions, let alone should more snow fall on Friday morning. With the fells being so wet, walkers out on the high fells on Friday could encounter ice should the temperatures fall so microspikes could also be a sensible addition to your rucksack. Temperature: plus 3.8 C, Maximum wind speed 29.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 3.7 C, Average wind speed: 14.3 mph

Issued at: 1747 on Thu 25 Jan 2024

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